China & Japan lead the way for Asia in the Decanter World Wine Awards

The 2019 Decanter World Wine Awards, the world's largest wine competition, sampled and judged close to 17,000 wines, entered from 57 different countries. The scale of this event emphasises the global appeal and highlights the prestige attached to receiving a coveted Decanter Medal. Wine lovers will rejoice in the knowledge that more medals have been awarded this year, continuing the trend of improving wine quality and the broader range of regions now producing wine.

China shows no signs of slowing down in its quest to produce award-winning wines for the global market. This is proven through the country's success this year, where wines from China were awarded with no less than seven Gold medals.

The most surprising win came from the **Puchang Vineyard, Rkatsiteli, 2017** which was awarded one of the seven Gold medals. Rkatsiteli is a Georgian grape variety and is highly unusual in China, this wine is made from 70% Rkatsiteli and 30% Riesling.

Notably, the **Puchang Vineyard, Rkatsiteli, 2017** was one of the two organic wines from China to win Gold, the other - **Ho-Lan Soul Organic Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2015** comes from Helan Mountain East.

A Chinese rosé, **The Chateau Changyu Moser XV, Moser Legend Blanc de Noir Cabernet Sauvignon, 2018** was awarded a Gold medal, completing the haul and showcasing the quality across red, white and rosé wines in China this year.

Elsewhere in Asia, both India and Japan entered more wines than last year with Japan winning a Platinum medal for **Suntory's Tomi No Oka Koshu, 2017 from Chubu** alongside three Gold medals. Each of these medals were awarded to wines made from the Koshu grape variety including **Shirayuri Winery, L'Orient Vigne de Nakagawa, 2017**, **Grace Private Reserve Koshu, 2018** and **Chânmoris Koshu, 2018.** A total of 23 Silver medals were also awarded to Japanese wines including an interesting **Niki Hills Hatsuyuki Filterless Kerner, 2017** from Hokkaido.

India and Thailand both took home one Silver and two Bronze medals each.

Co-chair of the awards, Michael Hill Smith MW comments "2019 has yet again seen some exciting wines with revelations coming out of Greece, Madeira and China. The Decanter World Wine Awards really helps producers to raise their profile internationally and for consumers faced with the prospect of such choice; choosing a bottle with a DWWA sticker on it, particularly a Gold or Platinum should reassure them that the wine has been through a rigorous judging process, against much competition and you can trust the quality. With more education on wine so widely available nowadays, and plenty more opportunities to travel, now really is the time to have an interest in wine."

ENDS

For further information on the Decanter World Wine Awards please visit
https://www.decanter.com/decanter-awards/

Notes to Editors

Launched in 2004, the Decanter World Wine Awards is the world's largest wine competition. The 2019 edition saw a panel of over 280 judges from 30 countries, including 70 Masters of Wine and 23 Master Sommeliers.

In 2018 a new system to award top medalists was introduced – Platinum and Best in Show. Gold medal-winning wines are re-categorised by grape or style and re-tasted by a panel of Regional and Co-Chairs. The wines are judged according to their origin and the judges are aware of countries, regions, sub-regions, grapes, vintages and price bands. The winners are awarded Platinum medals. Those with a price band below £15 are awarded a Best Value Platinum medal. In a separate tasting, the 3 Co-Chairs of the judging panel select the Best in Show from the Platinum winners, and are aware of origins, grape varieties, vintage and price bands. Full details on the judging process can be found on decanter.com.

Please note that the full results of the 2019 competition will be announced on decanter.com on Tuesday 28 May.

THE DWWA MEDALS

STAGE 3 - BEST IN SHOW

97-100 POINTS

Platinum winners are retasted to compete for Best in Show - the ultimate accolade given to the finest wines at DWWA.

STAGE 2 - PLATINUM

97-100 POINTS

In the second week, our Co-chairs and selected Regional Chairs re-taste all the Golds and award Platinum and Best Value Platinum medals to the best wines.

STAGE 1 – BRONZE, SILVER & GOLD MEDALS

During week one, Regional Chairs oversee their respective panels and re-taste any wines our experts are not in agreement about. They validate all the medals and re-taste Silver and Gold winners for consistency. The Co-chairs re-taste all the Gold winners for final endorsement. Silver medals are re-tasted twice and Gold medals three times. This rigorous process ensures that each wine is reviewed thoroughly.

95-96 POINTS
An excellent wine of great complexity & character

90-94 POINTS
A very accomplished wine, with impressive complexity

86-89 POINTS
A well-made, straightforward & enjoyable wine

SEAL OF APPROVAL

83-85 POINTS An acceptable & simple wine